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LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a facsimile letter from Mr. Levon Ter-Petrossian, President of the Republic of Armenia, dated 7 December 1992, declaring a state of national disaster in Armenia and appealing for humanitarian assistance.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 7 December 1992 from the President of Armenia addressed to the President of the Security Council

EMERGENCY APPEAL

I, the President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian, on behalf of the people of Armenia, declare the Republic of Armenia in a state of national disaster.

Due to the devastating effects the Azeri blockade has had on the country, creating a severe energy crisis, the Government appeals to all nations of the world, all international humanitarian organizations and government agencies to provide assistance to the people of Armenia for the next 12 months in order to secure the survival of the people through the harsh winter months.

According to the assessment survey of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of 14 October 1992, the economic collapse of Armenia is attributed to the "blockade of Armenia [which] has been de facto in force from Azerbaijan/Nakhichevan, Turkey (according to the intergovernmental agreement, Turkey is supplying only grain via its railroad) and, lately, Georgia. Should attempts aimed at opening one or two relief corridors through Turkey, and, if possible, Georgia, fail, we are convinced that a catastrophe will take place this winter". Other assessments by United Nations teams, the United States of America, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the American Red Cross, and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies corroborate these findings.

The Government and people of Armenia urgently require sustained, effective humanitarian assistance in order to prevent deaths in the tens of thousands from exposure, hunger and inadequate medical attention.

Unless immediate action is taken to transport fuel, grain, food items and winterization items as well as medical supplies into the Republic, the dismal projections made by various assessment teams will become a reality. Thus, on behalf of the people of Armenia, I, the President of the country, urge all Governments and humanitarian agencies to respond immediately by putting pressure on different nations to allow the transportation of fuel and aid into the country.

(Signed) Levon TER-PETROSSIAN